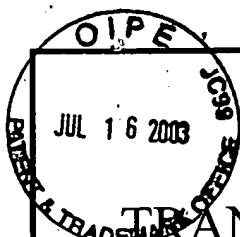


3652 \$/



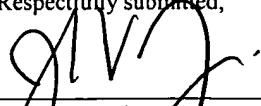
**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

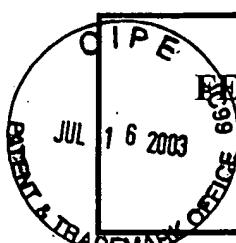
TRANSMITTAL FORM	Application Serial Number	09/897,820
	Filing Date	June 29, 2001
	First Named Inventor	Soucy
	Group Art Unit	3652
	Examiner Name	S. Bratlie
	Attorney Docket No.	APE-001
	Patent No.	Not applicable
Issue Date	Not applicable	

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Fee Transmittal Form <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Official Draftsperson including Drawings [Total Sheets _____]	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts of Application <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Request For Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (Revocation of Prior Powers) <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Executed Declaration and Power of Attorney for Utility or Design Patent Application <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> CD(s) for large table or computer program <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment After Allowance <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Certificate of Correction <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Correction (in duplicate)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief (in triplicate) <input type="checkbox"/> Status Inquiry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of First Class Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Facsimile Transmission under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below)			
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2003
GROUP 3600

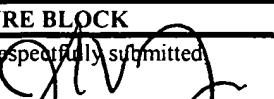
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	SIGNATURE BLOCK
Direct all correspondence to: Patent Administrator Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP High Street Tower 125 High Street Boston, MA 02110 Tel. No.: (617) 248-7000 Fax No.: (617) 248-7100	Respectfully submitted,  John V. Forcier Attorney for the Applicants Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP High Street Tower 125 High Street Boston, MA 02110



~~669~~ **EE TRANSMITTAL**
FY 2003

16 2013

<i>Complete if Known</i>	
Application Serial Number	09/897,820
Filing Date	June 29, 2001
First Named Inventor	Soucy
Group Art Unit	3652
Examiner Name	S. Bratlie
Attorney Docket No.	APE-001

METHOD OF PAYMENT		FEE CALCULATION (continued)	
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Payment Enclosed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other		3. ADDITIONAL FEES	
2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit or charge any fee indicated below for this submission to Deposit Account No. 20-0531. <input type="checkbox"/> Required Fees (copy of this sheet enclosed). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional fee required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overpayment Credit.		Large Entity Fee (\$)	Small Entity Fee (\$)
3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status.			Fee Description
FEE CALCULATION			
1. FILING FEE			
Large Entity			
Fee (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid	
750	Utility filing fee		
330	Design filing fee		
160	Provisional filing fee		
		Number Filed	Number Extra
		Rate	Amount
Total Claims	- 20 =	x \$ 18.00 =	
Independent Claims	- 3 =	x \$ 84.00 =	
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Dependent Claim(s), if any		\$280.00 =	
TOTAL: SMALL ENTITY DISCOUNT: SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)			
2. AMENDMENT CLAIM FEES			
Claims Remaining After Amend.	Highest No. Previously Paid For	Present Extra	Rate Fee Paid
Total	-	=	x \$ 18.00 =
Indep.	-	=	x \$ 84.00 =
<input type="checkbox"/> First Presentation of Multiple Dep. Claim			+ \$280.00 =
		TOTAL: SMALL ENTITY DISCOUNT:	(\$) (\$)
		SUBTOTAL (2)	(\$)
CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS		SIGNATURE BLOCK	
Direct all correspondence to: Patent Administrator Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP High Street Tower-125 High Street Boston, MA 02110 Tel. No.: (617) 248-7000 Fax No.: (617) 248-7100		Respectfully submitted,  John V. Forcier Attorney for the Applicants Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP High Street Tower 125 High Street Boston, MA 02110	



PATENT
Attorney Docket No. APE-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Soucy et al.
SERIAL NO.: 09/897,820 GROUP NO.: 3652
FILING DATE: June 29, 2001 EXAMINER: S. Bratlie
TITLE: Apparatus and Methods for Semiconductor Wafer Processing Equipment

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any document(s) referred to as enclosed herein, is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 14th day of July, 2003.



Karina L. Branzetti

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith are:

Transmittal Form (1 pg.);
Fee Transmittal Form (1 pg.);
Check in the amount of \$55.00;
Response (3 pgs.);
Petition for Extension of Time (1 pg.); and
Return receipt postcard

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2003
GROUP 3600



See
08/08/03
#7

PATENT
Atty. Docket No. APE-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Soucy et al. CONFIRMATION NO. 2518
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/897,820 GROUP NUMBER: 3652
FILING DATE: June 29, 2001 EXAMINER: S. Bratlie
TITLE: Apparatus and Methods for Semiconductor Wafer Processing Equipment

RESPONSE

This paper is submitted in response to the pending Office action, Paper No. 7, mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on March 12, 2003, for which the shortened statutory period was set to expire on June 12, 2003. Applicants hereby request a one month extension of time until July 12, 2003 and enclose a check for \$55.00 with the enclosed Petition. The extended deadline for response is automatically extended to Monday, July 14, 2003 under 37 CFR § 1.7. In the event that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 20-0531. Please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,013,920 to Gordon et al. (hereinafter "Gordon") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,068,668 to Mastroianni (hereinafter "Mastroianni"), U.S. Patent Nos. 6,375,403, 6,071,059, and 5,772,386 to Mages et al. (hereinafter "Mages"), PCT Application No. WO 00/33376 to Ishikawa (hereinafter "Ishikawa"), U.S. Patent No. 6,138,721 to Bonora et al. (hereinafter "Bonora"), and SEMI E57-0299.

Claims 1-17 are currently pending and presented for reconsideration. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, and SEMI E57-0299. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in view of the following remarks.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Gordon, Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, nor SEMI E57-0299 teach, at least, a device having a work volume for a door opening mechanism, wherein the volume has a height, width, and depth, and the depth does not exceed 80 mm from a seal plane, as recited in independent claim 1. None of the prior art references discloses the claimed work volume and a door opening mechanism that can operate within the claimed work volume. Conventional prior art door opening mechanisms require a larger work volume depth. Should Applicants be in error, as to the teachings of these references, Applicants respectfully request citation to the relevant disclosure in the references.

Applicants further submit that neither Gordon, Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, nor SEMI E57-0299 teach, at least, a seismic anchoring device disposed through an underside of a kinematic shelf, as recited in independent claim 16. The claimed seismic anchor is in addition to the kinematic pins and is used to lock the pod door opener into position after the opener is positioned on the pins. See Applicants' disclosure at page 13, paragraph 38.

As such, neither Gordon, Mastroianni, Mages, Ishikawa, Bonora, nor SEMI E57-0299, alone or in proper combination, teaches or suggests each and every element of Applicants' independent claims 1 and 16 and, therefore, dependent claims 2-15 and 17, as well. Accordingly,

Response
U.S.S.N. 09/897,820

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

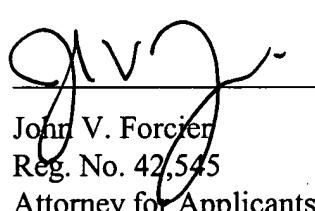
CONCLUSION

In view of all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection, and allowance of claims 1-17 in due course. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 14, 2003

Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP
125 High Street
Boston, MA 02110
Tel. No.: (617) 248-7675
Fax No.: (617) 790-0100


John V. Forcier
Reg. No. 42,545
Attorney for Applicants

2650536_1